Committee ordered the district commander to turn over his command to the colonel and wired the Provisional Government in Petrograd to ask confirmation.

Meanwhile soldiers elected their regimental committees and a Soviet of Workers was formed in the city. Since there were no large factories in Irkutsk, the Soviet did not arouse much public interest. Soldiers' regimental committees gravitated to the Citizens' Committee. Moreover, the Soviet itself recognized the Committee as the highest local authority and asked only for representation in it. The composition of the Committee had changed. The members of the old Municipal Council and representatives of liberal professions were now in the minority, while the representatives of workers and soldiers formed the majority. Politically, the organization was dominated by moderate Socialists, with Tseretelli as their leader.

On March 20, in view of alarming rumors, the Committee decided to put the local high officials of the old regime under house arrest. When the Committee's representative went to Pilz's mansion to announce this decision, the deposed Governor General thanked him for protection and requested as a favor that the number of guards assigned to him be doubled.

The Provisional Government asked all the old officials to continue their work, but most of them did not know how to handle the new situation. The District Attorney wanted to know in whose name the courts should announce their decisions. The Bishop, surrounded by church dignitaries, asked what to substitute for the prayer for the Tsar in church service. He offered a new version: "Lord bless the rightful rulers of the country." We approved it.

Developments in Irkutsk in these days were typical of the Russian provinces. Everywhere the people accepted the change in power whole-heartedly. Everywhere the troops declared allegiance to the new order, and the elected representatives of various groups took over the local government. After the overthrow of the Tsarist government in Petrograd, local authorities surrendered without the slightest attempt to resist. Violence and vengeance were rare. The old regime had collapsed like a tower of playing cards. Everywhere the victory of the new order was celebrated joyously. In two respects, however, the situation in Irkutsk differed from that in other provincial cities. First, the Citizens' Committee represented a very broad coalition; second, it was led by political exiles, involuntary guests of Siberia who were more interested in national and international political problems than in local issues.

Very soon we confronted the problem of war and peace. The soldiers and officers asked us whether their regiments should send to the front the "marching companies" that had completed the req-